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Ronald Provencher

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## Editor's Note

*Tahi terjadi !* My computer experienced an electronic or electric event while downloading a new version of Juno, resulting in the loss of my current e-mail address list. I have a pre-event printout (paper copy) that does not reflect some corrections and additions, and that is a problem. If you know someone who did not receive their e-mail attachment copy, tell them to e-mail me at [rprovinc@juno.com](mailto:rprovinc@juno.com) so that I can send them a copy and re-add them to the e-mail list. *Ma'af dan terimah kasih.*

Ron Provencher

## Periodicals (Relevant to M/S/B Studies)

### >American ethnologist

**V.32,n.1 – Feb 2005** – *AE Forum: are men missing?*

1) Provocation: Evelyn Blackwood, "Wedding bell blues: marriage, missing men, and matrifocal follies" [From the abstract – Revisits debates about so-called matrifocal societies as a way to critique the centrality of heteronormative marriage and family in anthropology – Examples from several regions of the world, and two major examples in the debate are the Minangkabau of West Sumatra and the Minangkabau of Negeri Sembilan in Peninsular Malaysia], pp 3-19; 2) In separate commentaries, Ellen Lewin, Roger N. Lancaster, Marilyn Strathern, John Borneman, Louise Lamphere, Tom Boellstorff, and Michael Peletz ("The king is dead; long live the queen!"), each in turn, critique Evelyn Blackwood's article, pp 20-41; and 3) Evelyn Blackwood replies with another essay, "The specter of the patriarchal man", pp 42-45.

### >Asia Pacific viewpoint

**V.45,n.3 -- Dec 2004 -- 1)** Lesley Potter & Fadzilah

Majid Cooke, "Introduction: negotiating modernity, themes and ideas" [Introduction to the 7 articles in the volume, which deal with local involvement with the forces of capitalism and globalization in Thailand, Sarawak, Riau, Papua New Guinea, Melanesia and an island off the coast of Sabah], pp305-309; 2) Keith Barney, "Re-encountering resistance: plantation activism and smallholder production in Thailand and Sarawak, Malaysia", pp 325-339; 3) Fadzilah Majid Cooke, "Symbolic and social dimensions in the economic production of seaweed" [Based on the thesis of 'deagrarianisation' of farming economies, work on sustainable rural livelihoods has successfully captured the agency of rural producers as they diversify their livelihoods to minimise risk -- Based on a study of diversification through seaweed cultivation on Banggi Island off Kudat, northern Sabah], pp 387-400.

**V.46,n.1 -- Apr 2005 -- 1)** Johan Lindquist,

"Organising AIDS in the borderless world: a case study from the Indonesia-Malaysia-Singapore Growth Triangle" [From the Abstract -- Considers how the emergence of HIV as a problem in the Growth Triangle, especially in Batam, has been framed as a problem to be addressed in the context of the nation-state rather than as a transnational problem that demands cooperation across borders -- Focuses particularly on the relationship between Batam and

Singapore and how both government and NGOs have dealt with HIV/AIDS issues in both places], pp 49-63; 2) Bernhard Seliger, review of Christopher M. Dent, *The foreign economic policies of Singapore, South Korea and Taiwan*. 2002. Cheltenham: Edward Elgar, pp 330, ISBN 1-84064-838-4 [Developmental histories of these 3 countries in the last decades have been determined by their foreign economic policies, a main reason for their successes -- Dent reviews these policies comprehensively and explores the new directions these countries took after the Asian economic crisis, developing a framework for analyzing FEPs (foreign economic policies) which includes not only the core trade and investment policies, but also a macro-framework that includes a variety of factors shaping FEPs generally -- Singapore one of the states receptive for foreign direct investment but also careful in fitting industries into the mix desired by the state], pp 82-84; 3) Laurent Metzger, review of D.M. Jones (ed), 2004, *Globalisation and the New Terror: The Asia Pacific Dimension*. Cheltenham: Edward Elgar, pp 316, ISBN 1843764423 [Notes that among the multitude of books published about terrorism, this book is very interesting in that it deals with most aspects of terrorism rather than just one or two -- Malaysia and Singapore content], pp 84-85.

**>Asian affairs: an American review**

**V.31,n.4 -- Winter 2005 --** 1) Amy L. Freedman, "Economic crises and political change: Indonesia, South Korea, and Malaysia" [The Asian economic crisis of 1997-98 brought massive financial difficulties and political upheaval to the three countries, as well as Thailand -- How can the variation in political change in Asia be explained as a result of the economic crisis? -- Attempts to bridge two different sets of literature, one on the links between economics and politics and the other addressing political change more generally], pp 232-249.

**>Asian folklore studies**

**V.63,n.2 -- 2004 --** 1) Barbara S. Nowak & Singan knen Muntil, "Btsisi", Blandas, and Malays: ethnicity and identity in the Malay Peninsula based on Btsisi' folklore and ethnohistory"[From the Abstract -- Examines Btsisi' myths, stories, and ethnohistory to gain understanding of their place in Malaysia -- Three themes: a) historically Austronesian-speaking peoples have harassed Btsisi', stealing their land, enslaving their children, and killing their people; b) Btsisi' are

very different from Malay neighbors, who are Muslim; and c) Btsisi' reject Islam and refuse to assimilate to Malay culture -- Also, Btsisi' believe that they and other Orang Asli were the original inhabitants of the Malay Peninsula and that Btsisi' and Blandas share a common origin and history], pp 303-323; 2) Gerald Groemer, book review of Patricia Matusky & Tan Sooi Beng, *The music of Malaysia: the classical, folk and syncretic traditions* (2004, SOAS Musicology Series, Hb ISBN 0-7546-0831-x) [A very positive thorough chapter by chapter review of this English translation of a 'classic' text published in Malay in 1997], pp 346-348.

**>Asian journal of political science**

**V.12,n.2 -- Dec 2004 --** 1) David Seth Jones, "ASEAN initiatives to combat haze pollution: an assessment of regional cooperation in public-policy-making" [Some Malaysia/Singapore/Brunei content], pp 59-77; 2) Alfredo C. Robles, Jr, "The ASEAN Free Trade Area and the construction of a Southeast Asian Economic Community in East Asia" [Some Malaysian and Singapore content], pp 78-108.

**>Asian journal of social science**

**V.32,n.3 -- 2004 --** 1) R. Michael Feener, "Hybridity and the 'Hadhrami diaspora' in the Indian Ocean Muslim networks"[From the Abstract -- Addresses issues related to the adaptation of notions of hybridity from diaspora studies to the study of Hadhrami migration to Southeast Asia, based on short biographies of prominent figures in the networks of Muslim scholarship from the 16th thru 19th centuries in the Malay world], pp 353-372; 2) Sharifah Zaleha binte Syed Hassan, "History and the indigenization of the Arabs in Kedah, Malaysia" [From the Abstract -- Generally, Arabs in Southeast Asia have been indigenized by long term exposure to local cultures, but in colonial Kedah, because of Arab relationship to royalty, assimilation was slowed by particular strategies related to maintaining high status -- Since independence, they have had to downplay high moral and social status to fit into democratic society, and in the process have been mostly assimilated into Malaysian society], pp 401-424; 3) Michelle Lee Guy, "Gossiping endurance: discipline and social control of Filipina helpers in Malaysia" [An examination of some of the implications of female transmigration because of work, focussing on Filipina domestic helpers in Malaysia], pp 501-518.

**>AJWS (Asian journal of women's studies)**

**V.10,n.1 -- 2004 --** 1) Christine Doran, "Instruments in

the hand of God: missionary women in Malaya, 1815-45" [From the Abstract -- Explores the motives and experiences of British women who were actively involved in mission stations in the Straits Settlements, working under the auspices of the London Missionary Society -- Also examines the early period of missionary activity in the region from 1815 to 1845 -- Focuses on a previously neglected but key issue: women's motives for becoming involved in missionary work], pp 7-24.

#### >Asian survey

**V.xlv,n.1 -- Feb 2005** -- 1) Garry Rodan, "'Singapore in 2004: an artificial democratization process" [From the Abstract -- Strong economic recovery decides Goh Chok Tong on passing the prime ministership to Lee Hsien Loong -- Earlier leadership change in Malaysia improved bilateral ties -- Lee visit to Taiwan generated friction with China], pp 140-145; 2) Bridget Welsh, "Malaysia in 2004: out of Mahathir's Shadow?" [From the Abstract -- PM Abdullah Ahmad Badawi developed his own brand of leadership, whilst maintaining the economy and redefining Malaysia abroad], pp 153-160; 3) Robert B. Albritton, "Thailand in 2004: the 'crisis in the South'" [From the Abstract -- Concerned mostly with violence between Thai soldiers/police and Malays in Thailand's southernmost provinces and February 2005 elections], pp 166-173; 4) A.V.M. Horton, "Brunei in 2004: window-dressing an Islamizing sultanate" [From the Abstract -- 2004 another tranquil year -- Main events the wedding of the Crown Prince and the resurrection of the Legislative Council], pp 180-185.

#### >Borneo research bulletin

**V.34 -- 2003** -- (All summaries drawn from BRB editor, Clifford Sather's, "Notes from the editor", pp 1-4) 1) Ramy Bulan, "Boundaries, territorial domains, and Kelabit customary practice: discovering the hidden landscape" [Examines in detail ways in which Kelabit people of northern Sarawak, thru cultural practices and land use, transformed the landscape of the Kelabit Highlands -- 59 titles in the bibliography], pp 18-61; 2) Dimbab Ngidang, "Transformation of the Iban land use system in post independence Sarawak" [Traces the history of native customary land rights in Sarawak from the Brooke era onward, analyzes consequences of native land use practices and of the Sarawak Land Code -- Focuses on the Iban, but his argument applies also to other indigenous peoples of

Sarawak, including the Bidayuh and Kelabit], pp 62-78; 3) Bob Reece, "The long life of Charles Brooke" [Looks at the Second Rajah of Sarawak as the subject of a developing biographical project], pp 79-86; 4) A. Baer, "Health in the Borneo Highlands: the Bario Kelabit" [Complements Ramy Bulan's opening essay, focusing on Kelabit of Bario valley and providing an overview of conditions of health, nutrition and availability of health care facilities], pp 87-93; 5) Alison Hoare, "Food resources and changing patterns of resource use among the Lundayeh of the Ulu Padas, Sabah" [Looks at a people closely related to the Kelabit, the Lundayeh of southwest Sabah -- Also, provides data on food sources and diet for two communities in the Ulu Padas area, and compares data from similar research in other central Bornean societies], pp 94-119; 6) M.M. Yusoff, B. Ahmad & G. Pasok, "Traditional medicinal plants of the Dusun Tobilung of Kampong Toburon, Kudat, Sabah, Malaysia" [Adds valuable data on medicinal plants, botanical identification, local names and uses], pp 120-128; 7) Roger Kershaw, "Academic correctness under monarchy: Universiti Brunei Darussalam and its research" [An extended review essay dealing with a set of thematically related publications -- Central theme is the instances of pressure to accede to "political correctness" that are reflected in the related publications], pp129-150.

#### >Critical Asian studies

**V.37,n.1 -- Mar 2005** -- 1) Sheila Nair, "Review essay: the state of Malaysian studies" [Combined review of : a) Edward Terence Gomez (ed), *The state of Malaysia: ethnicity, equity and reform*, London & NY: RutledgeCurzon, 2004; b) Francis Loh Kok Wah & Johan Saravanamuttu (eds), *New politics in Malaysia*, Singapore: Institute of Southeast Asian Studies, 2003; c) Khoo Boo Teik, *Beyond Mahathir: Malaysian Politics and Its Discontents*, London & NY: Zed Books, 2003; d) Vidhu Verma, *Malaysia: state and civil society in transition*, Boulder, Colo: Lynne Rienner Publishers, 2002], pp 161-175.

#### >Environment and planning

**V.37,n.3 -- Mar 2005** -- 1) Sun Sheng Han, "Polycentric urban development and spatial clustering of condominium property values: Singapore in the 1990s" [From the Abstract -- Makes use of global and local spatial auto-correlation statistics, exploring the spatial clustering of property values in the context of polycentric urban development -- Data collected from the property sales transaction data base in Singapore and analysis employing geographic information

systems and spatial statistics -- Results suggest there was a remarkable redistribution among the planning regions regarding the number of condominium projects in the 1990s, in line with the polycentric urban development policy], pp 463-481.

**>Harvard Asia quarterly**

**V.vii,n.3 -- Fall 2004 -- 1)** Erik Martinez Kuhonta, "U.S. foreign policy in Southeast Asia: the imperative of institutions" [From the text -- US foreign policy is better served by greater focus on weakness of institutions in the developing world and less advocacy of military capacity and democratic progress -- The most important difference between Malaysia/Singapore and Philippines/Indonesia is institutional capacity -- It is very important to consider the value of institutions in state and society], pp 4-11; **2)** Mohd Aziuddin Mohd Sani, "Free expression vis-a-vis cultural factors from 'Asian values' in Malaysian politics" [From the text -- Cites Bridget Welsh's statement that many Malaysians support Mahathir's view on freedom of expression because they think that unrestricted expression by media and NGOs could invite chaos and threaten economic development -- Large sections on cultural factors from 'Asian values' and the importance of community -- Notes that the concept of free expression as a universal concept is a thin disguise for Western cultural domination -- And much more], pp 12-22.

**>Indonesia and the Malay world**

**V.32,n.94 -- Nov 2004 -- 1)** Roger Kershaw, "The inconvenient rationality of Islamism: *Harakah* during the Pergau dam episode" [On the question of the relative rationality of the UMNO-controlled press and the commentaries of the PAS bi-weekly newspaper, *Harakah*, during the 'Pergau affair'], pp 345-365.

**>International feminist journal of politics**

**V.7,n.1 -- 2005 -- 1)** Juanita Elias, "Stitching-up the labour market: recruitment, gender and ethnicity in the multinational firm" [From the Abstract -- Presents a gendered political economy perspective on the process of foreign direct investment, arguing that liberal international political writings have failed to understand adequately the impact of multinational corporations on host states because of attachment to ideas of rational action and modernization, and their assumption that the market is a gender-neutral space -- Presents case study research from a multi-national corporation operating in Malaysia], pp 90-111.

**>International journal of comic art**

**V.7,n.1 -- Spr/Sum 2005 -- 1)** Juhanita Jiman, "Malaysian animation industry: the history, development, and collective efforts to set up a global and recognizable animation standard" [Sections of the article: a) Introduction -- b) Malaysian animation from past to present -- c) A brief history of today's achievements of Malaysian animation -- d) Future plans and development -- e) Local content in animation {content, story and idea} - character design - colors, motifs, shades, and textures - exaggeration and amplifying for maximum recognition - Islam and the Malays... the color pallets and significant characteristics - Buddhism and the Chinese... the color pallets and significant characteristics - Hinduism and the Indians... the color pallets and significant characteristics -- f) Costumes, sets, and props design -- g) Conclusion], pp 422-431; **2)** John A. Lent, "The printed word" [A book note about Mulyadi Mahmood's, 2004, *The history of Malay editorial cartoons (1930s - 1993)*, Kuala Lumpur, Utusan Publications and Distributors Sdn. Bhd., 323 pp ], p.555.

**>Junal IKIM**

**V.11,n.2 -- Jul/Dec 2003 --** See especially: **1)** Nik Mustapha Hj Nik Hassan & Mazilan Musa, "An evaluation of the Islamic banking development in Malaysia", pp 1-20; **2)** Ruzian Markom, "The national consumer policy: an Islamic perspective", pp 41-57; **3)** Dr Ahmad Fauzi Abdul Hamid, "The maturation of dakwah in Malaysia: divergence and convergence in the methods of Islamic movements in the 1980s", pp 59-97.

**V.12,n.1-- Jan/Jun 2004 --** See especially: **1)** Ar. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Asiah Abdul Rahim, "Malaysian architecture from Islamic perspective: past and present times", pp 63-86.

**>International sociology**

**V.20,n.1 -- Mar 2005 -- 1)** Tong Chee Kiong, "Feuds and legacies: conflict and inheritance in Chinese family businesses"[From the Abstract -- Debates among economists about the nature of the remarkable economic performance of the Southeast Asian region include the notion of a particular East Asian form of capitalism -- But most focus on national industrial policies and market forces or Confucian or Asian values as positive elements -- This article, contrarily, focuses more on the negative side of Asian business networking, looking at the business failures -- Conflict and inheritance, the 'dark' side and dysfunctions of family businesses -- Extensive case study interviews

conducted in Singapore and Malaysia as well as in China], pp 45-70.

**>Journal of the economic and social history of the Orient**

**V.47,prt2 -- 2004 -- 1)** Kenneth R. Hall, "Local and international trade and traders in the Straits of Melaka region:600-1500", pp 213-260.

**V.47,prt3 -- 2004 -- 1)** Om Prakash, "The Indian maritime merchant, 1500-1800" [Some references to the Malay world of that time], pp 434-457.

**>JMBRAS (Journal of the Malaysian branch of the royal Asiatic society)**

**V.lxxvii,pt.2,n.287 -- 2004 -- 1)** J.M. Gullick, "The Malay community of Kuala Langat in the late nineteenth century", pp 1-25; **2)** Raimy Che-Ross, "The 'Lost City' of Kota Gelanggi: an exploratory essay based on textual evidence and an excursion into aerial archaeology", pp 27-58; **3)** P.J. Rivers, "Monsoon rhythms and trade patterns: ancient times east of Suez", pp 59-93; **4)** Tunku Shahrman Tunku Sulaiman, "The Johor military forces: the oldest army of Malay regulars in the Peninsula", pp 95-105; **5)** Mohamad Rashidi Pakri, "Between the Malay peasants and a beautiful theory: romanticism and the imperialist agenda in Hugh Clifford's early fiction", pp 107-124; **6)** Cheah Boon Kheng, review essay of Virginia Matheson Hooker's *a) A short history of Malaysia: linking east and west* AND *b) Writing a new society: social change through the novel in Malay*, pp 125-127; **7)** Stephen Dobbs, review of Nadia Wright, *Respected citizens: the history of Armenians in Singapore and Malaysia*, pp 128-129; **8)** Rahimah Abdul Aziz, review of P.Lim Pui Huen, *Wong Ah Fook: immigrant, builder and entrepreneur*, pp 129-132; **9)** P. Ramasamy, review of Ken'ichi Goto, *Tensions of empire: Japan and Southeast Asia in the colonial and post-colonial world*, pp 132-134; **10)** J.M. Gullick, review of Abdur-Razzaq Lubis & Khoo Salma Nasution, *Rajah Bilah and the Mandailings in Perak: 1875-1911*, pp 134-135.

**>Rima: review of Indonesian and Malaysian affairs**

**V.38,n.1 -- 2004 -- 1)** Yasuko Kobayashi, "Mocking without mockery: Singaporean Malays and Indonesian domestic workers" [Concerned with Singaporean employers' abuse of Indonesian and Filipino domestic workers who look after Singapore children -- Sections of the article on: *a)* "...double writing of nation" (concerned with cognitive identity of

an ethnic minority within a nation), *b)* "where Indonesian domestic workers are located", *c)* "Singaporean Malays' fearful gaze at Indonesian workers", *d)* "the scheme of An-nisaa"], pp 99-122; **2)** Dianne Tillotson, Review of William D. Wilder, ed., *Journeys of the soul: anthropological studies of death, burial and reburial practices in Borneo*, Borneo Research Council Monograph No. 7, 2003, pp 195-198; **3)** Ian Proudfoot, Review of Abdun Tazzak Lubis & Khoo Salma Nasution, *Raja Bilah and the Mandailings in Perak: 1875-1911*, Monograph of the Malaysian Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society, No. 35, pp 198-202.

**>Thailand illustrated**

**V.20.n.3 -- Sep 2003 -- 1)** Korakot Sanchit, "Cultural exchange: Brunei Darussalam and Thailand unite in cultural exchange broadcasts" [The two countries have long had a close, outstanding relationship with no conflicts, which is clear from the regular visits paid by royal family members as well as national leaders -- Lists recent agreements and cultural functions], pp 7-11.

**>The economist**

**Feb19th-25th -- 2005 -- 1)** "Asian equities: finding something to crow about" [In an economic climate of weakening earnings, Malaysia may reevaluate the ringgit to boost the foreign-currency value of domestic assets], p.68.

**Mar5th-11th -- 2005 -- 1)** "Malaysian immigration: an amnesty of sorts for illegals" [Early morning, March 1, at a building site on the edge of Kuala Lumpur, a team of Malaysian immigration officers and volunteers surrounded 62 illegal immigrants who had ignored rules of a 4-month amnesty, a drop in the bucket of a great tidal wave of illegal immigrants from Indonesia literally hungry for work -- The Malaysian government may be taking a more enlightened approach -- Comparison with Thai government policies], p.44.

**Mar12th-18th -- 2005 -- 1)** "South-East Asian oil: a line in the water"[Better exploration techniques and higher oil prices have heated-up the maritime boundaries disputes among Malaysia, Indonesia and Brunei, but diplomacy outweighs force so far], p.44.

**Apr16th-22nd -- 2005 -- 1)** "Animals and human health: sitting ducks" [Bird flu is now endemic in Asia, which frightens everyone -- Still spreading since outbreak in 2003 but not yet able to replicate in humans (humans with disease can't infect other humans, yet) -- Largest outbreaks are in Vietnam (1,837 cases), Thailand (1,089) and Indonesia (207) -- Malaysia not many cases (10) so far], pp 35-36.

**Apr23rd-29th -- 2005 -- 1)** "Singapore: dicing with vice" [Singapore's PM, Lee Hsien Loong, announced the government's decision to legalize gambling in two large Vegas style casinos -- Several times before government rejected legalization, but now the electronics-driven economy is suffering from price competition with mainland China], p 43.

**>The journal of comparative Asian development**

**V.2,n.1 -- Spring 2003 -- 1)** James Lee, "Is there an East Asian housing culture? Contrasting housing systems of Hong Kong, Singapore, Taiwan and South Korea" [Issue editor's overview], p.3-19; **2)** Grace K. M. Wong & Xing Quan Zhang, "Government intervention and its impact on the housing market in Singapore", pp 115-132; **3)** Mohd Razali Agua, "The impact of government intervention on the housing market in Malaysia", pp 133-149.

**>The journal of imperial and commonwealth history**

**V.33,n.1 -- Jan 2005 -- 1)** Michael Thornhill, double book review of Chin Peng, as told to Ian Ward & Norma Mirafior, *My side of history* (2003, Media Masters, Pb ISBN 981-04-8693-6) **AND** C.C. Chin & Karl Hack, eds, *Dialogues with Chin Peng: new light on the Malayan Communist Party* (2004, Singapore University Press, Pb ISBN 9971-69-287-2). [Interesting combined review of two different books about an 'interesting' time and man], pp 142-146.

**>Third world quarterly**

**V.26,n.2 -- 1)** Jan Stark, "Beyond 'terrorism' and 'state hegemony': assessing the Islamist mainstream in Egypt and Malaysia" [From the Abstract -- Argues that both the self-proclaimed doctrinal Islam of militants and Western perceptions of a homogeneous Islamist threat need to be deconstructed in order to discover often ambiguous manifestations of 'official' and 'opposition' Islam, of modernity and conservatism -- A comparison of Egypt and Malaysia], pp 307-327.

**>Transactions of the institute of British geographers**

**NS-V.29,n.4 -- 2004 -- 1)** Matthew Sparke, James D. Sidaway, Tim Bunnell & Carl Grundy-Warr, "Triangulating the borderless world: geographies of power in the Indonesia-Malaysia-Singapore growth triangle"[Argues that this triangle should be examined not as a complementary transborder assemblage of land, labor & capital, but as a palimpsest in which the imagined geographies of cross-border development

and economic geographies on the ground are mediated by complex cultural and political geographies], pp 485-498.

**>Urban studies**

**V.41,n.12 -- Nov 2004 -- 1)** Eric C. Thompson, "Rural villages as socially urban spaces in Malaysia" [From the Summary -- Malay villages (*kampong*) in Malaysia are modernity's significant other in contemporary discourse -- This rhetoric reinforces a sense of rural-urban difference -- But, in fact, Malay *kampong*(s) are socially urban spaces in that the lived experience of their residents mostly conforms to typical 'urban' social life -- Examples: socioeconomic relationships characterized by occupational stratification, consumption & production based on commodification rather than subsistence, and social interactions marked by formal and attenuated social ties as much as informal and intimate relationships -- While nostalgic as well as derogatory narratives of modernity and urbanism depict *kampong* as sites marginal to urban modernity, this substantial article presents a credible case to the contrary: that the lives of *kampong* residents in contemporary Malaysia are substantially and qualitatively urban -- 13 interesting footnotes, plus 76 entries in the bibliography], pp 2357-2376.

**Books Books books books (Relevant to M/S/B)**

**>Altbach, Philip G. & Toru Umakoshi (eds)**

2004 *Asian Universities: historical perspectives and contemporary challenges*. Baltimore & London: John Hopkins University Press. 377 pp. Pb ISBN 0-8018-8037-8. [See especially: **1)** Ch7, Jason Tan, "Singapore: small nation, big plans", pp 175-197; and **2)** Ch9, Molly N. N. Lee, "Malaysian universities: toward equality, accessibility, and quality", pp 221-246.]

**>Asan Ali Golam Hassan**

2004 *Growth, structural change and regional inequality in Malaysia*. Hants, Eng. & Burlington, Vt.: Ashgate Publishing Ltd. xiv, 245 pp. ISBN Hb 0-75466-4332-8. [From the backcover -- Economic development seen as a process of structural change that is affected by economic growth -- Malaysia one of the middle-income economies that are going thru rapid structural change -- Since mid-1980's change to an industrial economy based on export of electrical & electronic components -- After 30 years of redistributive policies, still inequality -- Book examines the nature and impact of regional policies relating to patterns of demographic and economic structural change as well as growth, distribution and income disparities in Peninsular Malaysia.]

**>Ban Kah Choon, Anne Pakir & Tong Chee Kiong (eds)**

2004 *Imagining Singapore*. 2nd Edition. Singapore: Eastern Universities Press. xiv, 366 pp. Pb ISBN 981-210-248-5. [1) "Preface" by the editors discusses the need for a 2nd edition ... changes in Singapore society, economy, etc. during the 12 years since the first edition was published, pp v-vi; 2) "Introduction to the first edition" is reprinted, pp vii-xiv; 3) Ban Kah Choon, Ch1, "Narrating imagination", pp 1-15; 4) Yong Mun Cheong, Ch2, "Singapore: the city-state in history", pp 16-33; 5) Albert Lau, Ch3, "The national past and the writing of the history of Singapore", pp 34-53; 6) Hussin Mutalib, Ch4, "Singapore's quest for a national identity: the triumphs and trials of government policies", pp 54-80; 7) Simon SC Tay, Ch5, "Imagining freedom", pp 81-105; 8) Bilveer Singh, Ch6, "A small state's quest for security: operationalising deterrence in Singapore's strategic thinking", pp 106-137; 9) Chua Fook Kee, Ch7, "Mapping the concept of the Singapore leadership", pp 138-164; 10) Linda Low, Ch8, "Imagining the Singapore economy in the next lap", pp 165-187; 11) Lim Boon Tiong, Ch9, "The economics of a population policy", pp 188-209; 12) Victor R. Savage, Ch10, "Singapore's environmental ideology", pp 210-239; 13) Euston Quah, Ch11, "Demand for recreation and leisure", pp 240-253; 14) Anne Pakir, Ch12, "English-knowing bilingualism in Singapore", pp 254-278; 15) Wong Yoon Wah, Ch13, "Towards a centre of study of world Chinese literatures", pp 279-289; 16) Tong Chee Kiong, Ch14, "The rationalisation of religion in Singapore", pp 290-309; 17) Chong Kim Chong, Ch15, "Religious truth and the meaning of life", pp 310-327; 18) Nirmala Purushotam, Ch16, "Women and knowledge/power: notes on the Singaporean dilemma", pp 328-364; 19) Edwin Thumbbo, "Conclusion" (in free verse titled *AT MANDAI*), pp 365-366.]

**>Bayly, Christopher & Tim Harper**

2005 *Forgotten armies: the fall of British Asia, 1941-1945*. Cambridge, Mass.: The Belknap Press of Harvard University Press (1st UK pub. in 2004, Penguin Books, Ltd.). xxxiii, 555 pp. ISBN Hb 0-674-01748-X. [Sections of the tome: 1) "Contents" pp v-vii, "List of (34) illustrations" pp ix-x, 7 strategic maps pp xi-xvii; 2) "Prologue, Part I: escaping colonialism", pp 1-29; 3) "Prologue Part II: journeys through

empire", pp 30-69; 4) Ch1, "1941: last of the Indian and Burmese days", pp 71-105; 5) Ch2, "1942: a very British disaster", pp 106-155; 6) Ch3, "1942: debacle in Burma", pp 156-207; 7) Ch4, "1942: the abyss and the way back" with major sections on "the rape of Malaya" & "the new Malai" among others, pp 208-268; 8) Ch5, "1943: valleys of the shadow of death", mostly about events in India and Burma, pp 269-306; 9) Ch6, "Personal wars", which mostly devoted to Malaya and Singapore, with sections such as "The 'spirit of Asia' and the Malay nation", "The second coming of the Indian National Army", "Life in the time of tapioca", "Life without salt" and "War by proxy" (the Malayan Communist Party), pp 307-359; 10) Ch7, "1944: the pivot of the fighting - Japan's final throw", pp 360-392; 11) Ch8, "1944: the nemesis of Greater East Asia", the second colonial occupation, pp 393-422; 12) Ch9, "1945: freedoms won and lost", pp 423-455; 13) Ch10, "August 1945: an end and a beginning", fall of Japan and beginning of the fall of colonialism, pp 456-464; 14) Notes, pp 465-516; 15) Bibliography, pp 517-534; 16) Index, pp 535-555.]

**>Bishop, Ryan, John Phillips & Yeo Wei Wei (eds)**

2003 *Postcolonial urbanism: Southeast Asian cities global processes*. New York: Routledge. 336 pp. Pb. ISBN 0-415-93250-5. [Uses post-colonial theory and global urbanism to investigate novel forms of urbanism and politics in Singapore, Indonesia, Hanoi, Thailand and the Philippines.]

**>Booth, Ken (ed)**

2005 *Critical security studies and world politics*. Boulder Colorado & London: Lynne Rienner Publishers, Inc. ix, 323 pp. Pb ISBN 1-55587-826-1. [See especially, 1) Ch7, Jan Jindy Pettman, "Questions of identity: Australia and Asia"... some coverage of Malaysia and Singapore, pp 159-177.]

**>Carpenter, William M. & David G. Wiencek (eds)**

2005 *Asian security handbook: terrorism and the new security environment*. Armonk, NY: M.E. Sharpe. x, 365 pp. Hb ISBN 0-7656-1552-5. [See especially: 1) Ch3, Cheng-Chwee Kuik & Bridget Welsh, "Brunei: multifaceted survival strategies of a small state", pp 56-69; 2) Ch11, Bridget Welsh, "Malaysia: security begins at home", pp 166-179; 3) Ch18, William M. Carpenter, "Singapore: stability and prosperity", pp 259-263.]

**>Chua, Beng Huat (+ 2 chs w/Ananda Rajah and w/Yeo Wei Wei)**

2003 *Life is not complete without shopping: consumption culture in Singapore*. Singapore: Singapore University Press, National University of



Singapore. xii, 209 pp. Pb ISBN 9971-69-272-4. [From the backcover -- A cliché held dear to Singaporeans is that they pursue the 5 Cs... Cash, Cars, Condominiums, Credit cards, and Club memberships -- The PAP has delivered the goods and thus attained legitimacy -- But what is the Singaporean culture of consumption and what does shopping say about Singapore society? -- Explores the experience of consumption in Singapore.]

>Daniels, Timothy P.

2005 *Building cultural nationalism in Malaysia: identity, representation, and citizenship*. New York: Routledge. xxiv, map, 316 pp. Hb ISBN 0-415-94971-8. [Ch1, Nations, citizens, and theorizing belonging -- Ch2, Melaka past and present, cultural citizenship, and race-making -- Ch3, Cultural categories, hybridity, and identity schemata -- Ch4, Discourse and schemata of Malaysian society -- Ch5, Public celebrations and institutionalized representations of Malaysian society -- Ch6, Religious festivals in sacred, public, and private places -- Ch7, Negotiation and social relations -- Ch8, Cognitive resolution and experience -- Ch9, Conclusions -- Notes, Bibliography and Index.]

>Dede, Chris & James P. Honan & L.C. Peters (eds)

2005 *Scaling up success: lessons learned from technology-based educational improvement*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass. xv, 265 pp. Pb ISBN 0-7879-7659-8. [See especially: 1) Ch5, Laurence C. Peters, "Scaling up professional development in the United Kingdom, Singapore, and Chile", pp 97-109.]

>Devaraj, S. & Mahayuddin Abdul Rahman, Beh Ah Fat, Ishak Abd. Wahab (eds). Devaraj, S. & Mahayuddin Abdul Rahman, Beh Ah Fat, Ishak Abd. Wahab (eds)

2003 *The 2004 budget* (text by the Malaysian Ministry of Finance). Kuala Lumpur: Department of Information Services, Malaysia. [Major segments: Introduction -- Half a century of rapid progress -- Continue economic recovery -- Enhancing efforts towards achieving excellence -- Budget strategy 2004 (First strategy: domestic private sector as the engine of growth -- Second strategy: fiscal consolidation towards a balanced budget -- Third strategy: monetary policy to support private consumption and investment -- Fourth strategy: enhancing the nation's competitiveness -- Fifth strategy: strengthening social agenda and caring society) -- Economic prospects

2004 -- Conclusion -- Appendices. 141 pp. Pb ISSN 1394-3863.]

>Doling, John & C. Jones Finer & Tony Maltby (eds)

2005 *European policy lessons from the East*. 216 pp. Hb ISBN 0-7546-4237-2. [See: 1) Roziah Omar, "Malaysia: supporting families; 2) Tee Liang Ngiam, "Population ageing in Singapore: the challenge of using the central provident fund for retirement needs".]

>Erni, John Nguyet & Siew Keng Chua (eds)

2005 *Asian media studies: politics of subjectivities*. Oxford, UK & Victoria, Australia: Blackwell Publishing Ltd. ix, 261 pp. Pb ISBN 0-631-23499-3. [Broad coverage of media in Asia, see especially: 1) Ch3, Siew Keng Chua & Afshan Junaid, "Hook 'em young: McAdvertising & kids in Singapore", pp 37-54; 2) Ch6, Sue Abel, "'Forward-looking' news?: Singapore's News 5 and the marginalization of the dissenting voice", pp 91-115; 3) Ch11, Gaik Cheng Khoo, "Recuperating Malay custom/adat in female sexuality in Malaysian films", pp 207-224.]

>Glover, Ian & Peter Bellwood

2004 *Southeast Asia: from prehistory to history*. New York: Rutledge. 304 pp. Hb ISBN 0-415-29777-X. [Comprehensive cultural history of the region from prehistoric, especially the Neolithic and Bronze-Iron age, thru major Hindu & Buddhist civilizations to AD 1300.]

>Gomes, Alberto G.

2004 *Looking for money: capitalism and modernity in an Orang Asli village*. Subang Jaya, Malaysia & Melbourne, Australia: Center for Orang Asli Concerns & Trans Pacific Press. xix, 236 pp. Pb ISBN 9-83400425-7. [This is a very thorough and interesting study of the economy of the Semai, set within the Malaysian economy, beginning with an hypothesized structure of internal trading system of 15th-19th century Malaya, but firmly set in the economy of the 1980s and based on ethnographic research -- Chapters on the setting, production & time allocation, production output and income, market relations, commoditization & social relations, and the future of the Tapah Semai -- A very informative and interesting read.]

>Hall, C. Michael & Hazel Tucker (eds)

2004 *Tourism and postcolonialism: contested discourses, identities and representations*. Oxon & New York: Routledge. xiv, 193 pp. Hb ISBN 0-415-33102-1. [See especially: 1) Ch7, Joan C. Henderson, "Tourism and British colonial heritage in Malaysia and Singapore", pp 113-125.]

>Hiller, Dawn

2003 *Childbirth in the global village*. New York: Rutledge. 232 pp. Pb. ISBN 0-415-27552-0. [Compares experiences of mothers and midwives in America and England with those of Africa and Malaysia.]

>Ho, Wah Kam & Ruth Y. L. Wong (eds)

2004 *English language teaching in East Asia today: changing policies and practices*. Singapore: Eastern Universities Press. 2nd ed. xxxvi, 474 pp. Pb ISBN 981-210-336-8. [Forewords to 1st & 2nd editions -- Four messages (congratulations) from colleagues -- Acknowledgements -- List of the 37 contributors to the volume -- List of acronyms, abbreviations and terms in local languages -- "Prologue: aim, scope and concepts" by the editors -- See especially: 1) Ch5, Peter Martin & Kamsiah Abdullah "English language teaching in Brunei Darussalam: continuity and change", pp 87-101; 2) Ch16, Ambigapathy Pandian "English language teaching in Malaysia today", pp 272-293; 3) Ch17, Noor Lide Abu Kassim, "The evaluation of instructional material in an ESL setting (Malaysia): the application of an empirical method"; 4) Ch22, Cheah Yin Mee, "English language teaching in Singapore today", pp 353-374; 5) Ch23, Suchen Christine Lim, "Developments in the English language syllabuses in Singapore", pp375-393; 6) Ch24, Ho Wah Kam, "Meeting the communicative demands in higher education curricula: an overview of ELT provision in tertiary institutions in Singapore", pp 394-422.]

>Khoo, Kheng-Hor

2004 *Abdullah administration: Abdullah Ahmad Badawi and his government from Sun Tzu's perspective*. Subang Jaya, Malaysia: Pelanduk Publications. iv, 170 pp. Pb ISBN 967-978-898-9. [From the backcover -- Attempts to link the words and action of Malaysia's fifth PM and his government to those of Sun Tzu, focusing on the first hundred days of Abdullah's administration... an analysis not necessarily in praise of the PM.]

>Kwon, Huck-ju (ed)

2005 *Transforming the developmental welfare state in East Asia*. Hampshire & New York: Palgrave MacMillan. xiv, 294 pp. Hb ISBN 1-4039-4166-1. [See especially: 1) Ch4, Chua Beng Huat, "Welfare developmentalism in Singapore and Malaysia", pp 98-117; and 2) Ch8, M Ramesh, "One Singapore", pp 191-208.]

>Lent, John A.

2004 *Comic art in Africa, Asia, Australia, and Latin America through 2000: an international bibliography*. Westport, CT: Praeger. 698 pp. ISBN 0-313-31210-9. [Organized by subject, genre, cartoonist, and character categories.]

>Lo, Jacqueline

2004 *Staging nation: English language theatre in Malaysia and Singapore*. Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press. xi, 227 pp. Hb. ISBN 962-209-687-5. [Introduction: states of play -- Ch1, Scripting the nation -- Ch2, Conditions of production -- Ch3, Return of the 'native': *The Cord* -- Ch4, Disrupting the culture of silence: *1984 Here and Now* -- Ch5, Complicity and subversion: *Emily of Emerald Hill* -- Ch6, Competing subjectivities: *The Coffin Is Too Big for the Hole* -- Ch7, Conclusion: playful strategies -- Notes -- Selected bibliography -- Index.]

>Lyons, Lenore

2004 *A state of ambivalence: the feminist movement in Singapore*. Leiden & Boston: Brill. x, 191 pp. Pb ISBN 90-04-13139-6. [From the backcover -- An in-depth case study of the contemporary feminist movement in Singapore focused on the locally based Association of Women for Action and Research (AWARE), examining meanings attached to feminist activism, including use of the label 'feminist' as a self-identifier as well as the organization, using the framework of transnational feminism to explore ways in which gender, race/ethnicity and class intersect construction of specific feminisms.]

>Maier, Henk

2004 *We are playing relatives: a survey of Malay writing*. Leiden: KITLV Press. 450 pp. ISBN 90-6718-217-6. [From the brochure -- A comprehensive survey of literary writing in the Malay language, beginning with the Hikayat Hang Tuah to the beginning of the 21st century, and is organized around a discussion of related texts that are crucial in the rise of the notion of 'Malay literature'.]

>Matusky, Patricia & Tan Sooi Beng

2004 *The music of Malaysia: the classical, folk and syncretic traditions*. 494 pp. ISBN Hb 0-7546-0831-X. [History, appreciation and analysis of Malaysian music in its many & varied forms -- First published in Malay in 1997 -- Categorizes types of music genres in Malaysian society & provides an overview of the development of the nation's music.]

>McKitterick, Rosamond (ed)

2004 *Atlas of the medieval world*. New York: Oxford University Press. 304 pp. Hb ISBN 0-19-

522158-3.[26 contributors -- See especially: 1) "Islam and Islamic culture", pp 82-85; 2) "Religion and empire in Southeast Asia, c.700-1000", pp 90-91; 3) "Southeast Asia, the golden age of Pagan and Angkor", pp 188-189; and 4) "Empire and commerce in Southeast Asia, c.1300-1500", pp 266-267 -- Beautiful maps.]

>Millie, Julian

2004 *Syair Bidasari*. Leiden: KITLV Press. 350 pp. ISBN 90-6718-224-9. [From the brochure -- Focuses on the seductive qualities of the sexiest of the romantic syairs, the *Poem of Bidasari*, one of the most loved and widely disseminated of this genre of Malay text.]

>Morgan, Nigel & Annette Pritchard & Roger Pride (eds)

2004 *Destination branding: creating the unique destination proposition* (2nd edition). Oxford: Elsevier Butterworth-Heinemann. xvi, 314 pp. ISBN Pb 0-7506-5969-6. [See especially: 1) Ch15 by Can Seng Ooi, "Brand Singapore: the hub of 'New Asia'", pp 242-260.]

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2005 (Forthcoming) *Sex and the state: transgender practices, state strategies, and "Asian values" in Southeast Asia*. New York: Routledge. 240 pp. Pb ISBN 415-93161-4. [From the publisher's list... No description yet.]

>Robson, Stuart

2004 *Welcome to Indonesian: a beginner's survey of the language*. Boston & Singapore: Tuttle Publishing. 128 pp. Pb ISBN 0-8048-3384-2. [An introduction to the language, in 13 chapters: 1) as a variety of Malay; 2) as a national language; 3) its history; 4) development; 5) compared to Malay; 6) influence of the Jakarta dialect; 7) writing system in Indonesian and Malay; 8) relationship to Austronesian and other languages; 9) loan words; 10) what a word is; 11) what a sentence is; 12) journalistic prose; and 13) the literary dimension.]

>Rodan, Gary

2004 *Transparency and authoritarian rule in Singapore and Malaysia*. London & New York: RoutledgeCurzon. xvii, 261 pp. Hb ISBN 0-415-33582-5. [Ch1, "Information control and authoritarian rule in East and Southeast Asia: under challenge?", pp 1-17; Ch2, "Bedding down media and information control in Singapore and Malaysia"; pp 18-47; Ch3,

"bureaucratic authoritarianism and transparency reform in Singapore"; pp 48-81; Ch4, "Keeping civil society at bay: media in Singapore after the crisis", pp 82-110; Ch5, "Crony capitalism and transparency reform in Malaysia", pp 111-140; Ch6, "Challenges to media control in Malaysia", pp 141-172; Ch7, "Conclusion: advanced market systems, information flows and political regimes", pp 173-187; Notes, arranged and titled by chapter, pp 188-209; References/Bibliography, pp 210-249; 11) Index, pp 250-261.]

>Sen, Rahul

2004 *Free trade agreements in Southeast Asia*. Singapore: ISEAS. 96 pp. Hb ISBN 981-230-250-6. [Ch1, "Features of FTAs", pp 1-7; Ch2, "Singapore's FTAs with New Zealand and Australia", pp 9-26; Ch3, "Singapore's FTAs with Japan and EFTA (European Free Trade Association)", pp 27-42; Ch4, "Singapore's FTA with the United States", pp 43-60; Ch5, "Ongoing individual country FTA initiatives", pp 61-74; Ch6, "Ongoing ASEAN-wide FTA initiatives: China, Australia/New Zealand, Japan, and India", pp 75-84; Ch7, "Possible benefits of FTAs for Southeast Asia", pp 85-90; "Postscript", pp 91-93; "References", 95-96.]

>Soederberg, Susanne

2004 *The politics of the new international financial architecture*. London & New York: Zed Books, Ltd. ix, 229 pp. Pb ISBN 1-84277-379-8. [See especially, Ch4, "Unravelling Washington's judgement calls: the cases of Chilean and Malaysian capital controls", pp 95-129 -- Malaysia and Singapore as examples throughout the book.]

>Stubbs, Richard

2004 *Hearts and minds in guerrilla warfare: the Malayan emergency in 1948-1960*. Singapore: Eastern Universities Press. viii, 300 pp. Pb ISBN 981-210-352-X. [From the flyleaf -- An account of the origins, course, and outcome of the Malayan Emergency, which pitted the Malayan government against the Malayan Communist Party, its rural-based guerrilla army, and their supporters, drawing on the widest set of sources used to date -- Goes well beyond traditional analyses of the Emergency, examining the administrative, economic, political and social aspects of the guerrilla war, as well as the military aspects -- Examines the hypothesis that the battleground of any guerrilla war is the general population whose actions are crucial in deciding how the war unfolds.]

## &gt;Tarling, Nicholas

2004 *Nationalism in Southeast Asia: 'If the people are with us'*. Oxon & New York: RoutledgeCurzon. 273 pp. Hb ISBN 0-415-33476-4. [Dedication for Tony Reid -- Tightly structured: Part I, "Definitions and chronologies", a chapter for each; Part II, "Colonial states", chapters on "Construction", "Nationalist movements", "Invasion and interregnum"; Part III, "Nation-states", chapters on "Independence", "Popular sovereignty", "Challenges"; & Part IV, "Historiography", chapter on "History and heritage" -- Malaysia, Singapore and Brunei as particular examples of 'nationalism' in Southeast Asia.]

## &gt;Yamashita, Shinji &amp; Joseph Basco &amp; J.S.Eades (eds)

2004 *The making of anthropology in East and Southeast Asia* (Asian anthropologies series). New York & Oxford: Berghahn Books. viii, 374 pp. Pb ISBN 1-57181-259-8. [See especially: **1)** Ch12, A.B. Shamsul, "Anthropology, identity, and nation formation in Malaysia", pp 286-306; and **2)** Ch13, Tan Chee-Beng, "Anthropology and indigenization in a Southeast Asian state: Malaysia", Ch13, 307-334.]

**Conference Proceedings**

>*Proceedings of the first biennial conference, 2002, of the Indian association for Asian & Pacific studies* -- See especially, **1)** Suchanda Ghosh, "Initial period of contact between Bengal and South East Asia"[Archaeological evidence (datable wares like semi-precious stone beads, iron artifacts and pottery) of Indian contact with Southeast Asia (present day Burma, Thailand, Malaysia & Indonesia) as early as 500-400 BC -- Mostly coastal sites until first century AD -- Key sites at Khukan Lakpad in Malayan Peninsula, Isthmus of Kra, and Kuala Seiling in south Kedah yielded inscriptions, rouletted ware and Carnelian seals of Indian workmanship, etc], pp 321-329; **2)** Diptendu Sarka, "Thai Malay border provinces: some national security aspects of two countries"[Begins by noting that in SE Asia traditional states were defined by their centers, not by boundaries -- Notes that the relationship between the Thai government and the five Muslim provinces has a long history of fluctuations between amity and hostility as well as the presence of non-Muslim anti-government factions -- A terse history and a final section on the national security aspects for Thailand and Malaysia], pp343-352; **3)** A. Lakshmana Chetty, "Burgeoning India-ASEAN partnership: new challenges

and new opportunities"[Sections with some Malaysia /Singapore content on: a) the evolution of the India-ASEAN partnership; b) full dialogue partnership; c) India's reactive and proactive policies; and d) conclusions], pp 353-362; **4)** Imankalyan Lahiri, "Malaysia's security issues in the post Cold War years"[Begins by noting that domestic & international policies of nation-states are made-up by a talented few to defend and promote the country's national security -- Sections on a) challenges and security issues in foreign policy; b) Vision 2020 and Malaysia's security issues; c) terrorism, Islamic fundamentalism and Malaysia's security goals; d) economic security in Malaysia's foreign policy; e) USA, Singapore and Malaysia's security issues; and f) conclusions], pp 377-385; **5)** Champa Sen Choudhury & Bimal Chaudhuri, "Metal production & trade in 16th-19th century Southeast Asia"[Much about the tin trade and Malaya as well as other metals], pp 386-394.

>**The 9th international conference on Thai studies** was held April 3-6, 2005 at Northern Illinois University. More than 40 scholarly papers on Thai-Malay relations in southern Thailand were read and discussed. Interested members of MSB-SG should e-mail [rprovinc@juno.com](mailto:rprovinc@juno.com) regarding access to abstracts of papers in the conference that are relevant to Malay studies.

**Conferences & Calls for Papers**

>**Call for Papers -- Third Borneo biodiversity & ecosystems conservation programme.** An International conference held Feb 21st-26th, 2005 at Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, Malaysia. Contact Reed L. Wadley, Dept of Anthropology, University of Missouri-Columbia, Columbia MO 65211 USA, ph 1-573-884-0600/fax1-573-884-5450, or [WadleyR@missouri.edu](mailto:WadleyR@missouri.edu).

>**2005 Women in Asia conference, Sept 2005**

[From Ms. Anh H. Vu, Program Assistant, Social Science Research Council, NY] Call for papers for the 8th Women in Asia Conference, to be held 26th thru 28th September 2005. Papers invited from all disciplines, and participants may submit proposals for panels. Download the form to register (a pdf file) at: <http://www.hss.uts.edu.au/wia>. E-mail enquiries to Catherine Walczak at [catherine.walczak@uts.edu.au](mailto:catherine.walczak@uts.edu.au).

>**Workshop on religious commodifications in Asia, 24-25 November 2005** [From Angela Jancius] Organized by the Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore, this workshop will explore complex and diverse intersections between religious practices (e.g., Islamic, Buddhist, Hindu, Christian) and global capitalist forces in Asian contexts, including

a reexamination of the influential roles of religious traditions and their convergences with complex and mundane forces in contemporary Southeast Asia. Send paper proposals by 31 May 2005, including 250-word abstract and 5-line biography, to Ms. Valerie Yeo at [ariveov@nus.edu.sg](mailto:ariveov@nus.edu.sg). For enquiries, contact Bryan Turner at [aribst@nus.edu.sg](mailto:aribst@nus.edu.sg).

### **Amnesty International**

[Submitted by Margaret John, Coordinator for Singapore & Malaysia, Amnesty International Canada]  
**Malaysia: the future of policing – protectors.** Malaysian police are being offered a critical opportunity to increase their effectiveness and restore public trust with the upcoming publication of an official review. The Malaysian prime minister recognized that there were serious problems, and in a significant step, set up a Royal Commission of inquiry to address these problems. "The Commission's findings are eagerly awaited by the Malaysian people, NGOs, and internationally", said Tim Parritt, Southeast Asia researcher at Amnesty International, "We trust they will be made public, and lead to urgently needed reforms." Remand hearings, allowing detention to be continued, have been described as 'rubber stamp' exercises, with magistrates often viewing them as a formality rather than an opportunity to check the actions of the police. Police often fail to inform relatives or lawyers when remand hearings are due, or that suspects are being detained. Also there is a pattern of ill treatment being inflicted on suspects in custody, especially during interrogation. Tim Parritt remarked that "This is an historic opportunity for Malaysia to become a model of policing for the (Southeast Asian) region – a model where the police are accountable to society as well as to the government, where police work effectively within their neighborhoods because they have won the respect of local people for their equal protection of every group within that neighborhood." Amnesty International submitted its report (much more extensive than this very selective and extremely abbreviated *Berita* version -- rp) to the Royal Commission in January. The Royal Commission of Inquiry into the conduct and management of the Royal Malaysia Police was established by the Malaysian government in early 2004. It is expected to release its findings in May 2005.

### **Prospectus**

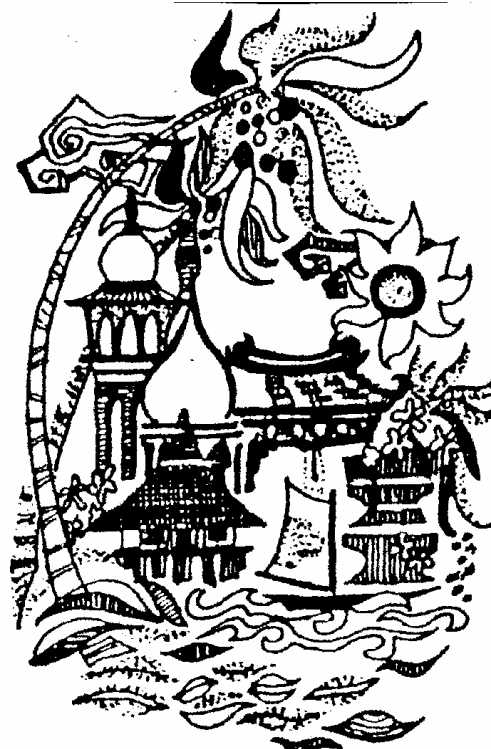
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Address all correspondence and submissions for publication to [rprovenc@juno.com](mailto:rprovenc@juno.com) or to Ron Provencher, P.O. Box 13336, Burton, WA 98013. Submissions for publication of announcements or scholarly contributions should be sent: (1) as an attachment to an e-mail message to the above e-mail address; OR (2) as a typed manuscript to the above mailing address. The Editor

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